ice during the last five years are as follows:—

Year	Minimum Export Price US$/PMT (FOB)	
	Basmati Rice	Non-Basmati Rice
1992-93	555	275
1993-94	550	250 w.e.f. 22.04.93 225 w.e.f. 10.08.93 200 w.e.f. 03.01.94
Basmati Rice: MEP removed w.e.f. 03.01.1994.		
1994-95	——	200
Non-Basmati Rice: MEP removed w.e.f. 18.10.1994.		
1995-96	——	——
1996-97	——	——

As per the current Export-Import Policy, export of rice both Basmati and non-Basmati rice are allowed freely without any quantitative and price restrictions. However exports of Basmati rice are subject to registration with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.

(c) and (d) It is not possible to accurately compare the MEPs/prices prevailing in the international and domestic markets on accounts of the different varieties traded, variations in quality, and additional expenditure incurred in grading and packaging for exports. However, the per unit export realisation during the last five years has been as follows:—

Year	Unit Export Realisation (Rs./Tonnes)	
	Basmati	Non-Basmati
1992-93	24651	6844
1993-94	20129	9376
1994-95	18301	7652
1995-96	21699	7230
1996-97 (April—December, '96)	23187	9672

Expansion of Border Trade in the North-Eastern Region

2287. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for expansion of border trade in the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, to which countries and when it will be started; and

(c) what are the transactional outputs in the Indo-Myanmar treaty in the border of Manipur State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two border trade points with Mayanmar i.e., Moreh in Manipur and Champai in Mizoram have so far been identified. Border trade point at Moreh in Manipur has since become

operational. It is also our endeavour to identify viable border trade points with Bangladesh. A positive response from Bangladesh is awaited.

(c) Border trade transacted across the Indo-Myanmar border via Moreh in Manipur since 12th April '95 till 15th June, 1996 is as under:—

Exports	:	Rs. 16.71 crores
Imports	:	Rs. 09.06 crores
Total	:	Rs. 25.77 crores

Trade deficit in Dollar Terms

2288. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the country's trade deficit in dollar terms during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and the expected deficit in 1996-97;

(b) whether Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) has indicated that the trade deficit of 1996-97 would be much more than that projected in Economic Survey as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 27th February, 1997;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) whether the Organisation was consulted before finalising the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) As per DGCI&S data, the country's trade deficit during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was US $ 1069 million, 2324 million and 4881 million respectively. The trade deficit as per the information available for April-January, 1996-97 in the current year is placed at US $ 4289 million. No projection for the expected deficit is made.

(b) and (c) The news item has mentioned that the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) has stated that the trade deficit for 1996-97 would be in the range of US $ 4-5 billion. The Economic Survey 1996-97 has not mentioned any projection about trade deficit.

(d) While preparing the Economic Survey, the Ministry of Finance has not consulted the FIEO.

राज्य व्यापार निगम में घाटे

2289. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या राज्य व्यापार निगम को गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान करोड़ों रुपये का घाटा हुआ है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष-वार, विभाग-वार और क्षेत्र-वार तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) प्रत्येक मामले में तत्संबंधी कारण क्या हैं;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने घाटे के मामलों में कोई जांच की है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(च) सरकार द्वारा घाटे को रोकने हेतु क्या सुधारात्मक उपाय किए गए हैं/किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० बोल्ला बुल्ली रमैया): (क) जी, नहीं। राज्य व्यापार निगम मुनाफा कमाने वाला संगठन है और पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान इसके द्वारा कर से पूर्व अर्जित समेकित मुनाफा नीचे दिया गया है:

	(करोड़ रुपये में)
1993-94	30
1994-95	41
1995-96	33

(ख) से (च) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Decline in Export of Black Pepper

2290. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any decline in the export of black pepper during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;